

JOBS

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we can't cut our way to national prosperity. Since President Obama took office, private sector employment has steadily grown; but largely due to misguided priorities of many Republican officeholders, public sector cuts have offset that private sector job gain. In fact, the States that took the most severe hatchet to their State budgets have lost the most jobs and faced a more severe economic downturn. But the States that increased spending in the public sector saw real and steady economic growth since the recession began.

According to a study by the Center for American Progress, that's because there's a corresponding increase in the private sector when we pursue a responsible policy of investment in the public sector. Some States have, in fact, slashed their way into a deeper economic slump. Yes, big cuts in public spending do have an immediate effect on the quality of life; but it's worse if in addition to affecting our quality of life, we are actually making the national employment situation much worse. There's abundant data to support that conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that President Obama's jobs bill invests in teachers, cops and firefighters because he knows that that investment will stimulate more private sector capital investment in our communities. That's why it should be passed.

JOBS

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to talk about jobs. People in the Sixth District of Tennessee are hurting. Our State has currently a 9.8 percent unemployment rate, and we have been at over 9 percent unemployment since February of 2009. Many of my counties are well above the Tennessee average. In Overton County, in the eastern part of my district, their unemployment rate is 10.6 percent; and in Marshall County in the southern part of my district, 13.8 percent of our population is out of work.

The President's new slogan on jobs of "We can't wait" is an odd choice. Right now, there are 15 House-passed bills sitting on the Senate desk waiting for action. Since day one, I have been working with my colleagues to create certainty in our economy, trying to cut the burdensome red tape and get government out of the way. Throughout our Nation's history, it's been the American entrepreneurial spirit that has pushed us forward.

Put simply, government does not create jobs. American small

businessowners create jobs. That's why I'm here today to urge Majority Leader REID and our colleagues in the Senate to pass these 15 jobs that we have created in a bipartisan manner over here in the House. America cannot wait, Mr. REID. Take up our bills.

BULLYING PREVENTION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. We cannot forget our children, and I ask that this body not close the doors on the Good Samaritan. Let that person in.

I would encourage the support of H.R. 83 that has focused on protecting our children from bullying. I have founded and cochaired the Congressional Children's Caucus with my colleague from Illinois, a bipartisan caucus that wants to remember the children. I encourage my colleagues to sign on to H.R. 83 so that we can have a national statement against bullying and begin to fund the best practices that our communities can work on to protect our children.

And then I want to ensure that the 2.5 million Americans that will lose their unemployment in 2012 are protected. Let's determine that those who have worked not be left in the cold without unemployment benefits.

And as we look forward to Veterans Day, I want to stand publicly and say that I oppose any cuts to veterans benefits by the supercommittee. I stand in support of our veterans and declare that if they gave us a promise and their willingness to sacrifice their life, we must stand in promise to them to never cut their benefits. Let me say to the homeless veterans that I visited, we, too, respect your condition and your service. We will not cut veterans benefits.

□ 1230

OKLAHOMA CITY: CITY ON A HILL

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. As we talk about jobs in America, let's talk about a positive story: Oklahoma City, ranked yesterday as having the number one best employment rate in America among cities of 1 million or more.

In our federal system of government, States and cities compete for excellence, and the result is a terrific city like Oklahoma City.

What made it work? I can tell you what made it work: Great State and local leadership, people who love to work, commonsense regulations locally, business owners who build great businesses, and a great community. In Oklahoma City, you see, we have traditional and new energy production working well side by side, community banks that work through the regu-

latory maze and do commercial lending. We have reasonable real estate development, trucking and manufacturing for all types of products, a military and civilian workforce who work together, small business owners and employees who love to serve our community, and pro-business, pro-family laws and regulations.

There is something our Nation could learn from a city like Oklahoma City.

A SALUTE TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle are very fond of saying that government doesn't create jobs but only the private sector. But all you've got to do is talk to any small business person on any Main Street in America and ask them, if the police department didn't come out and make sure that they had a safe neighborhood, how would that affect their business? Or you can go to a trucking company and say, you know, if the roads and the bridges and the transportation network of this country were not in place, could you ship products if we didn't have an interstate highway system? They would tell you, obviously the government helps business. Obviously. This is so obvious that we have to state the obvious here on the floor of Congress.

This anti-government, anti-public sector, anti-public employee and worker attitude does not help our country. It sets us back, and it is wrong. And I, for one, want to salute the everyday heroes—the cops, the firefighters, the teachers, the people who work on our roads, the people who make sure we have clean water and air to breathe.

Go for it, public employees. We're proud of you.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR AMERICA'S JOB CREATORS

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. If the Obama administration is serious about creating jobs for the American people, they should start by listening to America's job creators.

As part of my Tennessee Job Creators Tour, I've had the opportunity to meet with over 40 businesses. They have a clear message on how Washington can help create jobs: Get government spending under control; create a fair, flatter and simpler Tax Code; and repeal job-killing regulations that hurt their ability to do business and hire more workers.

House Republicans understand the importance of freeing our Nation's business owners from the confidence-killing threat of higher taxes and more regulation so that they can invest, grow, and hire. To accomplish this, we have passed a total of 17 job-creating